



Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

1. What is the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)?

The SFMNP awards grants to States, U.S. Territories and Federally recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) to provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods at farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs. The majority of grant funds must be used for benefits. State agencies may use up to 10 percent of their grants for program administrative costs.

2. What is the purpose of the SFMNP?

The purposes of the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program are to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey through farmers' markets, roadside stands and CSA programs to low-income seniors; and increase the consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding, developing, or aiding in the development and expansion of domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, and CSA programs.

3. Who is eligible for SFMNP benefits?

Low-income seniors, generally defined as individuals who are at least 60 years old and who have household incomes of not more than 185% of the Federal poverty income guidelines are the targeted recipients of SFMNP benefits. Some State agencies accept proof of participation or enrollment in another means-tested program, such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), for SFMNP eligibility.

4. How many recipients are served?

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, 725,686 people received SFMNP benefits.



5. Where does the SFMNP operate?

For FY 2020, 55 State agencies, U.S. Territories, and Federally recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) received grants to operate the SFMNP: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, the Chickasaw Nation(OK), the Choctaw Nation (OK), Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos (NM), Florida, Georgia, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (MI), Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Osage Tribe (OK), Pennsylvania, Pueblo of San Felipe (NM), Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Spirit Lake Tribe (ND), Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (ND), Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Not all States operate the SFMNP on a State-wide basis.

6. How does the SFMNP operate?

The SFMNP is administered through a Federal/State partnership in which the Food and

Nutrition Service (FNS) provides cash grants to State agencies. The SFMNP is administered by State agencies such as State Departments of Agriculture, Area Agencies on Aging, or ITOs. As a prerequisite to receiving Federal funds for the SFMNP, each applying or participating State agency must submit an annual State Plan describing how the State agency intends to implement, operate and administer all aspects of the SFMNP within its jurisdiction. Coupons or checks are issued to eligible SFMNP participants to buy eligible foods from farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands, or CSAs that have been authorized by the State agency to accept SFMNP coupons or checks. The farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands or CSAs then submit the redeemed SFMNP coupons to the bank or State agency for reimbursement.

The Federal SFMNP benefit level, whether for a household or individual, must be at least \$20 and cannot be more than \$50 per year, except for certain State agencies that were legacied into the SFMNP using a different benefit level. State agencies may also supplement the Federal benefit level with State, local, or private funds.

Nutrition education is provided to SFMNP recipients by the State agency, often through arrangements with the local WIC agency or other program partners. For example, Cooperative Extension Programs, local area agencies on aging, local chefs, farmers or farmers' markets associations, and various other non-profit or for-profit organizations may provide nutrition education to SFMNP recipients. These educational arrangements help encourage SFMNP recipients to improve and expand their diets by adding fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as to educate them on how to select, store and prepare the fresh fruits and vegetables they buy with their SFMNP coupons.

7. What foods are available through the SFMNP?

A variety of fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey may be purchased with SFMNP benefits. State agencies shall consider "locally grown" to mean

produce grown only within State borders but may also include areas in neighboring States adjacent to its borders.

8. How does a farmer or farmers' market become authorized to accept SFMNP benefits?

Each State agency is responsible for authorizing individual farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands, CSAs, or all of the above to participate in the SFMNP. Only farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands and CSAs authorized by the State agency may accept and redeem SFMNP coupons. Individuals who exclusively sell produce grown by someone else, such as wholesale distributors, cannot be authorized to participate in the SFMNP.

9. How many farmers and farmers' markets participate in the SFMNP?

In FY 2020, 14,767 farmers, 2,401 farmers' markets, 2,316 roadside stands and 71 CSAs were authorized to accept SFMNP checks or coupons.

10. What is the current funding level?

The 2018 Farm Bill provided \$20.6 million annually to operate the Program through FY 2023; however, a rescission of \$1.22 million reduced the amount available in FY 2020 to \$19.38 million.

11. How can I obtain further information?

SFMNP State agency contacts can be found at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts?f%5B0%5D=program%3A31>

For further information about the SFMNP, please visit our website at: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfmnp/senior-farmers-market-nutrition-program-sfmnp>



WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

1. What is the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)?

The FMNP is associated with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, generally known as WIC. The WIC Program provides supplemental foods, health care referrals and nutrition education; including, breastfeeding promotion and support at no cost to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to 5 years of age, who are found to be at nutritional risk.

2. What is the purpose of the FMNP?

The FMNP was established by Congress in July 1992, to provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs through farmers' markets and roadside stands to WIC participants, and to expand the awareness, use of, and sales at, farmers' markets and roadside stands.

3. Who is eligible for FMNP benefits?

Women, infants over 4 months old, and children who are certified to receive WIC Program benefits, or who are on a waiting list for WIC certification, are eligible to participate in the FMNP. State agencies may serve some or all of these categories.

4. How many recipients are served?

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, nearly 1.2 million WIC participants received FMNP benefits.

5. Where does the FMNP operate?

For fiscal year (FY) 2020, 49 State agencies, U.S. Territories and Federally recognized Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs) received grants to operate the FMNP: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, the Chickasaw Nation (OK), the Choctaw Nation (OK),



Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos (NM), Florida, Georgia, Guam, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Osage Tribe (OK), Pennsylvania, Pueblo of San Felipe (NM), Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, U.S. Virgin Islands, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Not all State agencies operate the FMNP on a State-wide basis.

6. How does the FMNP operate?

The FMNP is administered through a Federal/State partnership in which the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) provides cash grants to State agencies. The FMNP is administered by State agencies such as State Agriculture Departments, State Health Departments, or ITOs. As a prerequisite to receiving Federal funds for the FMNP, each applying or participating State agency must submit an annual State Plan describing how the State agency intends to implement, operate and administer all aspects of the FMNP within its jurisdiction. Eligible WIC participants are issued FMNP

checks or coupons in addition to their regular WIC benefits. These checks or coupons are used to buy eligible foods from farmers at farmers' markets and/or roadside stands that have been authorized by the State agency to accept FMNP coupons. The farmers or farmers' market managers then submit the redeemed FMNP checks or coupons to the bank or State agency for reimbursement.

The Federal FMNP benefit level, whether for a household or individual, must be at least \$10 and cannot be more than \$30 per year. However, State agencies may supplement the Federal benefit level with State, local, or private funds.

Nutrition education is provided to FMNP recipients by the State agency, often through an arrangement with the local WIC agency. Other program partners may provide nutrition education and/or educational information to FMNP recipients. For example, Cooperative Extension Programs, local chefs, farmers or farmers' markets associations, and various other non-profit or for-profit organizations may provide nutrition education to FMNP recipients. These educational arrangements help to encourage FMNP recipients to improve and expand their diets by adding fresh fruits and vegetables, including how to select, store and prepare the fresh fruits and vegetables they buy with their FMNP coupons.

7. What foods are available through the FMNP?

A variety of fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables and herbs may be purchased with FMNP benefits. State agencies shall consider "locally grown" to mean produce grown only within State borders but may also include areas in neighboring States adjacent to its borders.

8. How does a farmer or farmers' market become authorized to accept FMNP benefits?

Each State agency is responsible for authorizing individual farmers, farmers' markets, roadside stands or all of the above to participate in the FMNP. Only farmers, farmers' markets and/or roadside stands authorized by the State agency may accept and redeem FMNP coupons. Individuals who exclusively sell produce grown by someone else, such as wholesale distributors cannot be authorized to participate in the FMNP.

9. How many farmers and farmers' markets participate in the FMNP?

In FY 2020, 15,109 farmers, 2,461 farmers' markets and 2,150 roadside stands were authorized to accept FMNP checks or coupons.

10. What is the current funding level?

For FY 2020, \$18.548 million was appropriated for the FMNP.

11. How can I obtain further information?

WIC FMNP State agency contacts can be found at:

[https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts?ff0\]=program%3A30](https://www.fns.usda.gov/contacts?ff0]=program%3A30)

For further information about the WIC FMNP, please visit our website at:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/fmnp/wic-farmers-market-nutrition-program-fmnp>